

any practice that has the sanctions of Christ, or repudiate a person because he believes different from myself. The world is wide and there is room enough for all, live and help live and the glory will be all the brighter.

THE SEED SCATTERED

Some plants grow by the birds taking the seed to different places. Spiritual seed grows because men scatter the seed. I was riding on Halsted street today, and a gentleman said, "Are you Mr. McFaden?" I claimed the ownership of the name, and he said, "I used to attend your mission. I am now living elsewhere, but have not forgotten you. I met a lady on the North Side recently who said there was not a Brethren church in the city. I gave her your address and told her of your church. 'Now there was a seed planted. Only last week while my wife was looking after the hall, having it cleaned, two ladies came in. They said they belonged to the Baptist church, but lived so far from it that they would like to come in and work with us. So the seed is planted, for future development.

THE SEED GROWING

Sister Sadie handed me the following: "A few days ago I was told of a testimony given in one of the down-town missions. A man of middle age said, 'I was eating at a five-cent lunch counter a few days ago and a woman laid down a couple pieces of paper, I grabbed them. I was not in very good condition at the time, having spent my means in a saloon, I stuck the pieces of paper in my old pocket and went out, some hours after I sat down on the curb-stone and pulled them out and began to read. My heart began to beat and my breath came hard, I grew dizzy. All I could see was D E A-T-H. I read on and read again, I put the paper in my pocket. Soon I pulled it out and read it again, and read the smaller one, 'A Book of Three Leaves.' I began to see where I was in sin. Death stared me in the face, I read again and again until I found this blessed invitation, (Disciple Enter and Travel Heavenward) bless God, I have entered the gate and want to travel heavenward. Pray for me.'" Thus we see the seed growing. Help us scatter more.

MIXED ITEMS

The box of clothing from Goshen came from Dunlaps, sent through Brother and Sister Glime. We thank our good friends for the help to help others. Brother Beer sent for 1000 "Arched Gate" to be distributed by the Kings Children. This is a good idea, thousands had ought to be published. Do not forget our Christmas dinner this year. We want to enlarge on the one last year. This will do great good, but we must have the wherewith, and I feel sure you will help us make this a unique Christmas. There are other things, but I will defer them until my next.

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THAT HEATHEN MAN

W. M. LYON

I refer to Matt. 18: 17. Please read it with its connections. Who is this heathen man and publican? What has he done?

1. He has refused to be reconciled to his offended brother.

2. He has failed to hear his offended brother with "one or two more" as witnessing brethren.

3. He has also neglected to hear the church.

Has he refused to hear the Word—to obey the gospel? Yes, most assuredly. Why is this? It is because the gospel and the church

ALWAYS AGREE.

Let us never lose sight of this characteristic mark. If I am true to the Word, I am also true to the church; it certainly can not possibly be otherwise.

Therefore whatever does not correspond or agree with the Word, or the spirit of the Word, does not proceed from the church—is not of God, but is a false claim, an assumption. Now let us go to the Master himself and let him settle this church question for us. Please read Matt. 18: 19, 20. Here we have a few believers, perhaps only two, but Christ is the central figure. Don't forget that. What a beautiful representation of the true gospel church! And right here comes in the binding and loosing power spoken of in verse eighteen. The binding and loosing takes place because we agree with Christ and we always agree with him when we agree with his Word.

Now another step. Does Christ change? Has he ever changed? No. Heb. 13: 8.

How about his Word? Does it change? Certainly not. I Peter. 1: 23, 25; Mark 13: 31. Can the church change? Does it change? No, the church is represented as his body, he being the head. Col. 1: 18-24.

Now then, if all these things be true—and who will dare to say they are not? what then about those organizations that are constantly changing their ecclesiastical rulings and requirements, especially those relating to conditions of membership, tests of fellowship, etc.?

In order to illustrate this clearly I refer to something quite familiar to many of us. A few years ago, a certain denomination which teaches and practices the ordinance of foot-washing, decided that it was wrong to observe it according to the "single mode" as they designate it. Thousands of their members held very tenaciously to this mode. The general church (conference) decided in favor of the "double mode."

More than five thousand conscientious, Bible loving souls still contended for the "single mode," believing it to be nearer what Jesus taught than the other, and therefore they failed to

HEAR THE CHURCH?

What was the result? Most reliable statistics still in the hands of one of the leading members of that same denomination,

prove that nearly six thousand members were excommunicated, because they failed to *hear the church!*

Among this number were many high officials, all set aside as "heathen men and publican!" But that is not the worst. That same ecclesiastical system—what does it preach and practice to-day? It teaches, and its universal practice to-day is, the "single mode," the very thing it *condemned* only a few years ago, and on account of which thousands of its members were expelled and held thereafter as "heathens and publicans."

Now, I have given this kindly, reverently and with all due respect toward those dear people, for I love them, but many of them have greatly erred along certain lines, not with the heart, but head.

I could give many illustrations like this, but they are not necessary.

Now I ask, was it the church that expelled those members? Surely not, unless God contradicts himself in his own word. The facts are that those who were expelled, were expelled because they simply refused to obey men, choosing rather to obey God through his word, thereby proving their loyalty to his church.

Surely we need never to fear so long as we are obedient to the gospel, no matter how many councils of men may condemn us. We are to be judged by the word of God, (John 12: 48) and not by conference rules and regulations. O, what a pity that so many good people in the various denominations suffer themselves to be bound hand and foot by human laws and traditions! Is not the word of God complete in itself? Let us not undertake to improve it. Let us keep hands off the ark. I Chron. 13: 10.

Be true to God's word even though you be called heathen. The Master was called by a harder name than that. Matt. 10: 25. "Let God be true, but every man a liar." Rom. 3: 4.

RESPONSES

In response to the Editor's request, I will report the first pledge that came to hand. It was sent in by Sister Snyder from Glover's Gap, W. Va., with one dollar enclosed for foreign missions, and the following words written diagonally across the face of the "pledge:" "All I possibly can;" as this sister has already given ten dollars to home missions this year, the "all I possibly can," means something in her case.

There have been a few more pledges sent in, nearly all of them by sisters; one of them thanks God for the *privilege* of contributing toward the cause of missions. Would to God that we had about ten thousand more like her.

Some treat all the causes alike, filling up the whole pledge thus: 5 cents a month for Chicago, 5 cents for Washington, 5 cents for Dayton, 5 cents for home, 5 cents for foreign. That is all right. Let them come that way. The secretary is, however, scratching his head at the thought of the amount of book-keeping that may have to be done to